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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 MC-02 AID-05 OMB-01 NEA-10 SAJ-01
DHA-02 TRSE-00 /094 W
----------101232Z 122533 /20
R 101207Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4552
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, MASS, UR, UG, GW
SUBJECT: UGANDAN RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND USSR

THE FONOFF HAS PASSED US THE FOLLOWING REPORT FROM THE FRG EMBASSY IN UGANDA. EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

SUBJECT: NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS IN KAMPALA;
SOVIET-UGANDAN AND AMERICAN-UGANDAN RELATIONS

(1) THE DELIVERY OF 12 MIG 21 PLANES TO THE UGANDAN AIR FORCE FIGURED IN THE CENTER OF NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS HERE. ON JANUARY 1, SIX OF THE NEW PLANES, WITH AT LEAST THREE OF THE SIX PILOTS BEING SOVIETS, FLEW IN FORMATION OVER ENTEBBE AIRPORT ABOVE ABOUT 3,000 GUESTS, INCLUDING THE WHOLE CABINET, THE LEADERS OF THE ARMY AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

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(2) AT A RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE EVENT, PRESIDENT AMIN DELIVERED A NEW YEARS SPEECH. HE THANKED THE SOVIETS FOR THEIR MILITARY AID WHICH WAS MEANT TO RE-PLACE THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT DESTROYED BY "INTER-NATIONAL BANDITS" (ISRAEL). HE URGED SOLIDARITY WITH THE SOVIETS, AS THEY WERE THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO EXTENDED SUPPORT IN THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN

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AFRICA.

THE FOLLOWING ARE OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST IN AMIN'S SPEECH:

(A) THE AMERICANS, WITH ISRAELI HELP, HAD MADE A "BOGUS" FILM ON THE ENTEBBE ATTACK. THIS FILM BORE THE TITLE "VICTORY" BUT THIS WAS A FALSIFICATION. MINISTERS AND DIPLOMATS WOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE FILM. AN AMERICAN ACTOR WHO WAS TO STAR IN THIS FILM HAD ALREADY MET HIS DEATH. THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN REVENGE WOULD BE TAKEN FOR ENTEBBE, "NOT IN HOT TEMPER BUT IN COLD BLOOD."

(B) ALL UGANDANS WERE URGED TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVITY NOT WITH "CAPITALIST" METHODS BUT "IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE." CAPITALISM WAS AN INSTITUTION OF EGOTISM AND EXPLOITATION.

(C) THE MAIN GOAL OF AFRICAN POLICY WAS THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. SMITH AND VORSTER WERE BEING SUPPORTED BY IMPERIALIST AND CAPITALIST COUNTRIES, BUT AFRICA HAD ENOUGH FRIENDS TO REACH THE GOAL OF LIBERATION.

(3) DURING THE CONGRATULATORY PROCESSION OF THE MISSION CHIEFS (PRESIDENT AMIN AT THE SAME TIME CELEBRATED HIS 49TH BIRTHDAY), THE PRESIDENT WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSPICUOUSLY FRIENDLY TOWARD THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND MYSELF (WHO AT THE MOMENT ARE THE ONLY WESTERN AMBASSADORS HERE). IT HAD BEEN GENERALLY EXPECTED THAT AMIN WOULD USE THIS DAY FOR REPEATING HIS OLD CHARGES CONCERNING ALLEGED COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL.

(4) THERE WAS NO MISTAKING THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS FIGURED IN THE FOREGROUND OF THE CELEBRATIONS. ALL OF ENTEBBE AND THE ROAD TO THE AIRPORT WERE DECKED OUT WITH SOVIET AND UGANDAN FLAGS. IT LOOKED AS IF THE WHOLE SOVIET COLONY, INCLUDING THE ESTIMATED 300 MILITARY ADVISERS AND WIVES, WERE THERE. DURING THE AIR SHOW, THE NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR SAT NEXT TO AMIN, TOGETHER WITH HIS MILITARY ATTACHE AND COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY.

(5) AS PREVIOUSLY PROMISED, AMIN INVITED HIS CABINET AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO A SPECIAL SHOWING OF THE FILM "VICTORY AT ENTEBBE" ON JANUARY 2. IT HAD BEEN

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AMIN'S INTENTION TO USE THE EXAGGERATED PORTRAYAL OF
HIS OWN PERSON, (WHICH IS IN FACT PRESENTED UNREALLY),

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
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TO SHOW THAT THE FILM AS A WHOLE IS A FALSIFICATION.
IT MAY BE SAID, THOUGH, THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS
UTTERLY MISTAKEN IN THIS RESPECT. THE FILM STRONGLY
IMPRESSED BOTH HIS MINISTERS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,
INCLUDING THE ARAB REPRESENTATIONS. THE MURDER BY
UGANDAN SECRET POLICE OF 73 YEAR-OLD MRS. BLOCH WAS
SHOWN WITHOUT CUTS AND PRODUCED NOT A LITTLE SYMPATHY
FOR THE ISRAELIS. DEROGATORY REMARKS ABOUT AMIN
("CLOWN", "MURDERER" AND THE LIKE) WERE NOT CUT EITHER.
THE FILM SHOWN WAS A COPY OF THE AMERICAN "ABC
MONDAY NIGHT MOVIE."

(6) TO PREVENT THE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS FROM
BECOMING ENTIRELY A SOVIET AFFAIR, SOME ATTENTION WAS
GIVEN TO THE VISIT OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN MEYER
OF THE GULFSTREAM AIRCRAFT CORPORATION, NEW
YORK. MEYER WAS WELCOMED ON JANUARY 2 AT THE AIRPORT
WITH FULL HONORS AND RECEIVED BY AMIN FOR A TALK OF
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SEVERAL HOURS' DURATION. AMIN EXPRESSED THE WISH TO MEYER THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN KAMPALA WOULD BE REOPENED SOON AND THAT HE WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY SOON TO MEET PRESIDENT CARTER.

(7) THE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS WERE VIEWED WITH MIXED FEELINGS. ONE MINISTER REMARKED THAT HE WOULD HAVE LIKED MEDICINES AND AMBULANCES BETTER THAN SOVIET MIGS. THE PREPONDERANCE OF THE SOVIETS AT TIMES WAS SO OVERWHELMING THAT IT WAS EMBARRASSING. THE SHOWING OF THE FILM "VICTORY AT ENTEBBE" PRODUCED SYMPATHY FOR THE HOSTAGES AND ADMIRATION FOR THE ISRAELI STRIKE RATHER THAN PITY FOR THE KILLED UGANDAN SOLDIERS.

AMIN MADE HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN A LONG TIME, BUT WAS PROTECTED BY AT LEAST TWENTY SECRET POLICE IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE HEADS OF BOTH CHRISTIAN CHURCHES (CARDINAL NSUBUGA AND ARCH-BISHOP LUWUM) KEPT AWAY FROM ALL EVENTS. AMIN ON DECEMBER 26 HAD PUBLICLY TOLD THE BISHOPS "TO STOP PREACHING BLOODSHED, OTHERWISE GOD WILL PUNISH YOU." WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED WAS THAT THE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF MASAKA, IN A CHRISTMAS MASS ON DECEMBER 25, HAD CRITICIZED THE TERROR MEASURES OF THE PRESENT GOVERN-MENT AND HAD PRAYED FOR AN EARLY END OF THE BLOODSHED IN UGANDA.

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